<u>*Amendments To The Claims:*</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method of serving objects in a computing network, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a sender for an object stored on an intelligent storage system, the request being received by a web server, and the intelligent storage system comprising a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the requested object to a location on an associated storage device;

evaluating the request for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion;

~~if the at least one predetermined criterion is met, returning a redirect code~~ <u>returning a response message</u> from the web server to the sender <u>if the at least one predetermined criterion is met</u>, wherein <u>the response message includes a location of the object on the associated storage device of the intelligent storage system, and</u> the sender utilizes the ~~redirect code~~ <u>response message</u> to obtain the object in a manner that bypasses the web server for outbound traffic from the intelligent storage system to the client ~~without transferring a corresponding session between the web server and the sender to a different web server~~; and

~~if the at least one predetermined criterion is not met,~~ serving the stored object from the intelligent storage system to the sender via the web server <u>if the at least one predetermined criterion is not met</u>.

46. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein returning a ~~redirect code~~ <u>response message</u> from the web server to the sender comprises:

informing the sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the ~~redirect code~~ response message comprises a redirect indication of an existing protocol.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, wherein the existing protocol is Hypertext Transfer Protocol.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, wherein the existing protocol is Wireless Session Protocol.

51. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, further comprising automatically requesting establishment of a subsequent connection between the sender and the intelligent storage system in response to the ~~redirect code~~ response message.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises evaluating the request for the object based upon a size of the stored object.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request-for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a statically specified number.

54, (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the statically-specified number is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request-for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a dynamically-determined number.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 55, wherein the dynamically-determined number is determined in view of the current network conditions.

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises evaluating a naming extension of the stored object.

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating a naming extension of the stored object comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a statically-specified set of naming extensions.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58, wherein the statically-specified set of naming extensions is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request-for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of naming extensions.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 60, wherein the dynamically-determined set of naming extensions is determined in view of current network conditions.

62. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises evaluating the request for a name of the stored object.

63. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request-for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a statically-specified set of object names.

64. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 63, wherein the statically-specified set of object names is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request-for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of object names.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 65, wherein the dynamically-determined set of object names is determined in view of current network conditions.

67. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises evaluating a content type of the stored object.

68. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request-for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a statically-specified set of content types.

69. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 68, wherein the statically-specified set of content types is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

70. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request-for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of content types.

71. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 70, wherein the dynamically-determined set of content types is determined in view of current network conditions.

72. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises using one or more wildcards which operate to match more than one stored object.

73. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises network-attached storage.

74. (Currently Amended) A method of creating a link to an object, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a particular object that is stored in an intelligent storage system comprising a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the requested object to a location on an associated storage device;

evaluating at least one characteristic of the particular object;

~~creating~~ retrieving a redirect file that instructs ~~link on~~ a web server receiving the request ~~and deploying the redirect link on at least one other web server~~ to return a response message including the location of the requested object on the associated storage device of the intelligent storage system if the at least one evaluated characteristic of the particular object is satisfied, the ~~redirect link~~ response message being configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system; and

~~creating~~ locating an object serving link that is utilized by ~~on~~ the web server receiving the request ~~and deploying the object serving link on at least one other web server~~ to obtain the object from the intelligent storage system and return the object in response to the request if the evaluated ~~characteristics~~ at least one characteristic of the particular object is not satisfied.

75. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 74, wherein the ~~redirect link~~ redirect file enables returning a direct status code to a requester of the object.

76. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 75, further comprising requesting establishment of a subsequent connection automatically in response to receiving the redirect status code for retrieving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system.

77. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 75, wherein contents of the ~~redirect link~~ redirect file are programmatically created.

78. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 75, wherein the contents of the ~~redirect link~~ redirect file are manually created.

79. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 74, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises network-attached storage.

80. (Canceled)

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Currently Amended) A system for serving objects in a computing network, comprising:

an intelligent storage system comprising a control unit configured to determine a mapping for a request for an object to a location on an associated storage device; and

a web server configured to receive the request by a sender for an object stored on the intelligent storage system, the web server being configured to evaluate the request based on at least one criterion, and if the at least one criterion is met, returning a ~~redirect code~~ response message to the sender to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system, wherein the redirect code includes a location of the object on the associated storage device of the intelligent storage system, and ~~wherein~~ the sender utilizes the ~~redirect code~~ response message to obtain the object in a manner that bypasses the web server for outbound traffic from the intelligent storage system to the client without transferring a corresponding session between the web server and the sender to a different web server, and if the at least one criterion is not met, to serve the stored object via the web server.

83. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 82, wherein the web server is configured to redirect the request to the control unit by sending information that a subsequent connection should be established for serving the stored object when the at least one criterion is met.

84. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim ~~83, wherein the redirect code points the response message is configured to direct the sender to the logical location of the object on the intelligent storage system and~~ 82, wherein the response message is configured to direct the sender to obtain the object from the intelligent storage system in a manner that bypasses the web server.

85. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 83, wherein the ~~redirect code~~ response message is of an existing protocol that automatically causes establishment of a subsequent connection between the sender and the intelligent storage system.

86. (Currently Amended) A system for creating a link to an object, the system comprising:

an intelligent storage system comprising a control unit configured to determine a mapping for a request for ~~the object to~~ a particular object to a location on an associated storage device;

a web server configured to receive the request for ~~the object~~ the particular object and to evaluate at least one characteristic of ~~the object;~~ the particular object;

wherein the web server is configured to ~~create a redirect link~~ retrieve a redirect file that instructs the web server receiving the request to return a response message including the location of the particular object on the associated storage device of the intelligent storage system, the response message being configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system if the at least one evaluated characteristic of the particular object is met, ~~wherein the redirect link is deployed onto at least one other web server,~~ and to locate an object serving link that is utilized by the web server receiving the request to obtain the particular object in response to the request if the evaluated characteristic of the particular object is not met. ~~create an object serving link on the web server if the at least one evaluated characteristic of the particular object is not met, wherein the object serving link is deployed on the at least one other web server.~~

87. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for serving objects in a computing network, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for an object stored on an intelligent storage system, the request being received by a web server, and the intelligent storage system comprising a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the requested object to a location on an associated storage device;

computer readable program code configured to evaluate the request based on at least one criterion;

computer readable program code configured to return a redirect code response message from the web server to a sender if the at least one predetermined criterion is met, wherein the response message includes a location of the object on the associated storage device of the intelligent storage system, and the sender utilizes the redirect code response message to obtain the object in a manner that bypasses the web server for outbound traffic from the intelligent storage system to the client without transferring a corresponding session between the web server and the sender to a different web server; and

computer readable program code configured to serve the stored object via the web server if the at least one criterion is not met.

88. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 87, wherein the computer readable program code configured to return a redirect code response message from the web server to a sender comprises:

computer readable program code configured to inform the sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object.

89. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the redirect code points the sender to the logical location of the object on the intelligent storage system and wherein the response message is configured to direct the sender to obtain the object from the intelligent storage system in a manner that bypasses the web server.

90. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 86, wherein the computer readable program code configured to return a redirect code response message from the web server to a sender comprises:

computer readable program code configured to use a redirect code response message of an existing protocol, and wherein receipt of the redirect code response message by the sender of the received request automatically causes the sender to request establishment of a subsequent connection between the sender and the control unit of the intelligent control system.

91. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the at least one criterion is selected from one of a size of the stored object, a naming extension of the stored object, a name of the stored object, and a content type of the stored object.

92. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 91, wherein the at least one criterion are statically-specified.

93. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 91, wherein the at least one criterion is dynamically-determined.

94. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the at least one criterion comprises one or more wildcards which operate to match more than one stored object.

95. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises a network-attached storage.

96. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for creating a link to an object, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for a particular object in an intelligent storage system comprising a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the requested object to a location on an associated storage device;

computer readable program code configured to evaluate at least one characteristic of the particular object;

computer readable program code configured to ~~create a redirect link on a~~ retrieve a redirect file that instructs a web server receiving the request ~~and deploying the redirect link on at least one other web server~~ to return a response message including the location of the particular object on the associated storage device of the intelligent storage system, the response message being configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system if the at least one

evaluated characteristic of the particular object is satisfied~~, the redirect link response message being configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system~~; and

computer readable program code configured to ~~create~~ locate an object serving link ~~on the web server receiving the request and deploying the object serving link on at least one other web server~~ that is utilized by the web server receiving the request to obtain the object from the intelligent storage system and return the object in response to the request if the at least one evaluated characteristic of the particular object is not satisfied.

97. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 96, wherein the ~~redirect link~~ redirect file enables returning a redirect status code to a requester of the object.

98. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 97, further comprising computer readable program code configured to request establishment of a subsequent connection automatically in response to receiving the redirect status code for retrieving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system.

99-102. (Canceled)

103. (New) The method according to claim 45, wherein the receiving a request from a sender for an object stored on an intelligent storage system, the request being received by a web server, and the intelligent storage system comprising a control unit configured to determine a mapping for the requested object to a location on an associated storage device further comprises:

providing a web server within the intelligent storage system capable of processing HTTP redirect messages.

104 (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the returning of a redirect code from the web server to the sender further comprises:

obtaining a redirect file stored on the web server that identifies the location of the object on the intelligent storage system.